



LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Capitol Building P.O. Box 1690 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

**ADLAH "FONCIE"
DONASTORG**
Senator, 28th Legislature
Member, Committees on:

*Financial Services,
Infrastructure and Consumer
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and
Environmental Protection*

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Donastorg launches anti-gang initiative Acclaimed actor Ving Rhames and former gang leaders meet with youth, officials

ST. THOMAS – Senator Adlah “Foncie” Donastorg expects to formally introduce legislation next month that will assist law enforcement in combating gangs and violent crime here in the Virgin Islands.

“The Legislature’s Legal Counsel has been working to finalize the bill,” Donastorg said. “This was one of the first pieces of legislation I worked on after we were sworn in last year. This bill gives our police officers new tools as well as establishes violence prevention measures. It also contains provisions for helping former gang members reenter society.”

Donastorg said that new laws were not the sole answer to the Territory’s growing gang problem, but that the Virgin Islands needed to update its approach.

“There are some very specific acts we can make illegal, such as initiating anyone into a gang, that will give us broader powers to combat the drug and weapon running organizations that are responsible for much of the violence in our community,” the Senator said.

In addition to his legislation, Donastorg said he would continue to reach out to the young people on the streets.

“We need to take steps to get their attention,” he said. “This week I arranged for a few people who know what it is really like out there to come with me into our St. Thomas and St. Croix housing communities and reach out to those in trouble or at risk.”

Donastorg said he was pleased that among those joining him this week were acclaimed actor Ving Rhames, star of numerous movies to include Mission Impossible, Pulp Fiction, Baby Boy, American Gangster, Con Air and Entrapment and the infamous former California gang member turned activist and music producer known as “Big U”.

“These gentlemen understand the challenges our youth face and will definitely command their attention,” Donastorg said. “I have also asked them to meet with our Police Commissioner.”

The Senator said that he continues to seek solutions to the Virgin Islands crime problem.

“We must take a multi-faceted approach,” he said. “My primary concern remains combating the conditions that make a life of crime attractive to our children. We must continue to work on educational and economic initiatives that give our people opportunities and hope for a better life. We must also fight against those that condone dishonesty at all levels of society. A thief is thief whether he wears a tie or a t-shirt. Leadership must serve by example.”

Donastorg also announced that he would host a special reception Friday for those visiting the Territory to work with our youth, to also include former NFL superstar and philanthropist Roland Williams, who played for the St. Louis Rams, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Oakland Raiders. Williams is coordinating a major charitable event this summer here in the Virgin Islands.

The reception will begin at 8 p.m. Friday at Four Winds Plaza adjacent to Cash & Carry. The public is invited. Donastorg said he will also be celebrating his recent college graduation.

“I want our children to know that education should be a lifelong process,” he said.